

# MAINE FARMER

AGRICULTURE MECHANIC ARTS GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

VOL. XV.

AUGUSTA, THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 25, 1847.

NO. 47.



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

## DESTRUCTION OF THE GRAIN WORM.

Previous to the year 1837 Maine was considered a good country for raising wheat. The spring variety, if sowed early, was a very sure crop. On or about the above named year, when the people of Maine had begun to feel deeply interested in cultivating this kind of wheat, and to feel an ambition to make themselves independent, as much as possible, in the matter of breadstuffs, a savage, in the shape of the grain worm, or as it is improperly called, "weevil," came upon the crop, and with variable abundance has continued ever since. The past season it seemed to have been more abundant, and to have made more ravages than for the two or three previous years. Various remedies have been proposed for ridding the country of this little, but powerful scourge; but nothing as yet has been very successful.

Some propose that our farmers shall cease wholly and totally from raising any kind of grain for a year or two, that shall give support to the insect, and thus starve him out. If it were certain that it would live upon nothing else, and from its habits it certainly seems so, this mode would probably be successful; and indeed it seems to be the only feasible plan that can be followed.

It is possible, however, that if cut short of its rations in this way, he might hunt up a substitute, and thus live on in spite of all attempts to effect starvation. Be this as it may, we believe that farmers may adopt some course by which, if all would follow it, the enemy might be much thinned in numbers.

Each worm, it is well known, is the parent of a fly, or rather the fly itself, as soon as it has put on a set of legs and wings—and each fly or pair of flies produce a great number of more flies. He who destroys one of these worms destroys a small army that would be, and thus diminishes the evil proportionably.

Dr. Fitch, of Salem, N. Y., in his valuable treatise on this insect proposes several modes of diminishing their numbers. He states that the grain worm, after it has grown to a suitable size rolls itself up in a crystal, and in this state remains until the next summer. Some of them descend to the earth, where they deposit themselves under mouldy fragments of straw on the surface, or buried a half an inch or less within the soil. He states that he has found them, after the ground was harvested, and also in the spring following. Another portion of them remain in the heads of the wheat, and are carried into the barns and threshed out with the chaff, and are found among the screenings of the fanning mill. These observations agree with the observations of Mr. Plummer, of Wales, in this state, who, some years ago, received a premium from the Kennebec Co. Ag. Society, for his researches and essay upon the insect. Now the question, how can it be destroyed while in this state? We will quote the words of Dr. Fitch: "These screenings," says he, "our farmers kindly empty out at the door of the barn, where most of them doubtless find among the litter of the yard, a bed equally comfortable and secure as that which their brethren in the field are reposing." "It would seem as though Divine Providence, had expressly designed to place a part of every generation of these insects directly in the hands of man, that he might destroy them at his option. And Uncle Toby is so extremely benevolent that he uniformly carried them to the door, and said 'go away, little flies, go away, the world is wide enough for you and me both.' Now it is scarcely necessary for me to say that the screenings of the fanning mill should invariably be examined, and if the minute yellow wheat worms are found in them, the person should consider it a sacred duty which he owes to himself and to his neighbors to consign these screenings to the flames." "And now if those portions of the worms which remain in the fields can also be destroyed, it becomes certain that we are at once and forever relieved from all further solicitude with regard to future injuries which the insect can inflict upon us. It has been proposed to burn the stubble that remains in wheat fields, and if this measure be resorted to at a very dry time in the autumn, probably some of the worms would be destroyed by it. But so far as I have observed, they uniformly live here in situations where they are surrounded with some degree of moisture, under damp and mouldy clusters of stubble, or slightly within the surface of the ground.

It would therefore be only those straggling individuals that are not in their usual haunts, that the transient heat caused by such a burning would reach.

Would a turning over of the field with the plow bury them to such a depth, that they would find of finding their way to the surface again? This is an important inquiry.

We stated above that possibly the insect might be starved out, by causing to cultivate grain in those districts where it abounds; but we have seen it stated some where that the fly often lays its egg in the ear of the common wheat or couch grass and in the wild oats. The seeds of these grasses are so small however, that the insects could not prosper long in this way. Perhaps we shall never be wholly rid of the pest, but it does seem that they might be diminished very much if the proper means were taken to do it.

Better farm 30 acres well than 50 by halves.

## HEDGES—THORN FENCES.

We may be wrong—but we have ever contemplated it as a matter of regret that no more attention has been accorded to this branch of agriculture, as we have no doubt that amid the many indigenous trees and plants in our forests, there are not many that are suitable for hedges. In some sections, indeed, the native thorn is very abundant, and one of the most hardy shrubs we have. The fact may also be considered as fully and incontrovertibly established that any tree, plant or shrub which will spring naturally and grow without any assistance from art, may, in the same soil, and with proper cultivation, be made to grow in subserenity to the wishes of man. Hedges, composed of thorns, constitute a most admirable enclosure, and are, we believe, as economical as any other; the only thing necessary being a knowledge of the *modus operandi* in managing them.

As fencing materials, even in our most densely wooded districts, are annually growing more and more scarce, it is for the interest of all who have lands to enclose, to substitute, if practicable, some article that, while it shall be equally as durable, will be even less expensive than wood. We have no idea of ever beholding an even, firm, continuous and flourishing hedge of either Virginia or English thorn in our high northern climate; they are both too fragile, and are, besides, subject to other injuries than those produced by cold; but we are still sanguine that valuable substitutes are available, and that our native thorn, being obnoxious to no valid objections, will, in time, be extensively used for this purpose, notwithstanding attempts to cultivate it have, hitherto, proved nearly if not quite abortive. One of the great objections urged against its introduction, arises from the fact that the seeds or *haws* are difficult to germinate; but this is not the case. The following article, which we cut from an exchange, affords valuable information touching this subject, and should be carefully perused by every one who is desirous of propagating the thorn for fence.

"The berries should be gathered when fully ripe, and spread in a loft, where they should remain till February, when they must be soaked until the pulp becomes soft, which will require only a few days in a cellar; then they must be carefully washed, so as not to break the seeds, and the pulp washed off by pouring the seeds in vessels of water, and rubbing off the pulp until the water is perfectly clear; in this moist state the seeds must be kept in a tight vessel, in a cool and damp place, covered with a wet cloth, and turned up-side down, or from one vessel to another, about once a week, or as often as is necessary to prevent them from becoming too dry on the top. As early in March as the season will admit, a seed bed is to be prepared. One must be made, which I would advise to be new laid, inclining a little to the south, and moist. If the ground can be burnt first, so much the better. About this time you will find the seeds begin to burst. As soon as they generally open, sow them broadcast—pretty thick, and cover them one inch deep." In this way, their germination is certain. w.

## FRISKY POTATOES.

We have heard of frisky lambs and frisky girls, but not of frisky potatoes until we looked into the last number of the *Prairie Farmer*. The Editor observes that "A subscriber at Magnolia writes as follows: Yesterday my father fetched in a handful of potatoes Mr. J. E. Dent gave him, that grew on the tops of the vines. They appear to be as perfect potatoes, and of good color, (which is the common blue) as those grown in the ground. Some of them are in clusters like top onions. They are from the size of a hazel nut to nearly that of a hen's egg." Did Mr. Dent turn the tops up, think ye, and find the "taters" there? Potatoes growing on the tops of the vines would have one advantage. We could gather them after a hot season already roasted.

## COWS THAT MILK HARD.

Sometimes a farmer has a cow that milks too hard. This is a better failing than for a cow to milk so easy that she milks herself all day long and all over the pasture. Yet we shouldn't wish to have too many of the hard milkers in a yard, unless we had a steam engine to milk for us. Would not the following mode obviate the trouble? It might be tried cautiously, and mayhap succeed.

Some years ago the experiment was tried by some boys, of milking cows by pushing straps up the teats and letting the milk run through them into the pail. The boys were delighted with the easy way that they had discovered for milking, but it proved at last that their plan caused all the cows to leak their milk. Perhaps by putting the straps or small tubes up the teats of a hard milker, it might so stretch the passages as to cause the milk to flow a little easier by the pressure from the hand.

MUTTON SOUP. Boil the neck or scrag of mutton in two quarts of water, until boiled away for two or three hours, add grated or sliced carrots, tomatoes peeled, quartered and sliced turnips and potatoes; boil slowly until the meat falls from the bones, season high with black and cayenne pepper, salt to taste; beat an egg with a spoonful of flour, and stir it into the soup—and serve with or without the meat and vegetables. [Ex.]

BRICK BACK LOGS. Brick back logs to fire places where wood is burned are very useful and economical. The brick takes up the heat slowly and retains it, whereas iron backs take up the heat quick and lose it as rapidly, and besides, become very hot and burn up the wood, thereby producing a loss. Persons who use brick back common flat-iron heated to place to the feet of sick persons, will notice how much sooner iron loses the heat and becomes cold than brick. [Ex.]

## IMPROVEMENT OF POOR LANDS.

One of the cheapest, and probably most efficient methods of restoring fertility to exhausted soils, is that which, in England, is denominated "Green Dressing." This is nothing more than turning in a crop of buckwheat, oats, peas, or, in short, any succulent crop which the soil is competent to produce.

As soon as the plants have attained their full growth, the field is ploughed, care being taken to cover all the plants with an even furrow, and in this state the field is permitted to remain until the mass has had time fairly to decompose, when it is again ploughed and sowed to wheat. The Dutch, also, practice the same economical system, and are said to produce excellent crops of wheat on poor pine plains, which, without this preparation, would scarcely repay the expense of ploughing.

Millet is an excellent article for this purpose, as its cost is comparatively nothing, yielding a large amount of foliage, which, from its peculiarly succulent nature, when green, readily decomposes when turned in. All soils of a light texture, when attempted to be improved in this way—no matter what may be the nature of the ameliorating crop, should be carefully rolled as soon as ploughed. By sowing buckwheat early in the season, and ploughing as soon as the plants have arrived at the period of inflorescence, a second crop may be had, either of buckwheat or peas.

WALNUTS. We have often regretted that the cultivation of the walnut is not more general. It is certainly one of our most beautiful trees, and for ornamental purposes far superior to the poplar or even elm. The cultivation of the shell-bark walnut by our farmers, would be productive of no inconsiderable profit, as the wood is valuable for mechanical purposes, and extremely durable. The fruit, also, is valuable. The *Barre* (Mass.) Gazette stated, some five years since, that the cash received for the crop of walnuts gathered in that town, amounted to a very considerable sum. On one farm there were gathered five hundred bushels; on another, seventy-five, worth one dollar per bushel. The wood being valuable, its growth is better than money at twelve per cent. w.

## FLOWERS AND BALLS OF THE RED POTATO.

Some years since, one of the leading agricultural journals of our country propounded the question, whether any man had ever seen flowers or balls on the "red potato." The variety denominated "red," is supposed to have been brought from the river La Plata, in South America, nearly or quite thirty years ago, and retains its primary character, and properties better than any other potato known. Of the potato family, we have ever regarded this as the most productive, and we find this year, that with us, it is the least assailed by the "rot."

## ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOUNG FARMERS.

At the Cattle Show in Waldo county, a few days since, we made the acquaintance of an aged and agreeable farmer, William Sibley, Esq. of Freedom, who is now one of the wealthiest farmers in that county, and who raises a large quantity of good table fruit, which he ships to foreign markets. His case furnishes much of encouragement to young farmers in Maine, and we allude to it and give a few incidents in his life for their benefit.

Forty-five years since he made his way by means of spotted trees to his present home, there to make him a farm. His humble house, with its roof of bark, was constructed, and thither he took his wife to share his burthens and lighten his path-way by her smiles. As he first went through the woods to commence upon his present farm, he was not worth enough to pay for an axe. He has raised forty-four crops, and since his first crop he has not had in his house a quart of meal or a pound of flour not raised upon his farm. He has in some seasons raised 500 bushels of corn and large crops of wheat. He made preparations for raising fruit, and has succeeded finely, and is still active in introducing into his acres the choicest varieties of fruit. He has given his children a good literary and a good business education, and they severally held high credit upon their parents. His property is now estimated at about twenty thousand dollars.

Mr. Sibley was one of the active contributors to the Fair, exhibited various specimens of fruit &c., and manifested great interest in all that seemed calculated to advance the noble art to which he has devoted his life. He is a man of active habits and sound health, and is a worthy example of what farmers can do when they unite an active mind with an industrious hand in their pursuit, and where the culture of the soil and of the mind go forward together.

It may be thought that we have trespassed too much upon the personal history of Mr. Sibley, but our excuse must be found in the encouragement which is given to young farmers who are about commencing life as he did. For this purpose we think it well occasionally to point out the successes of those who have gone forward in the thorny path, and from small beginnings, by their industry and skill have accomplished that which is praiseworthy and honorable. [Bangor Whig.]

MUTTON BASTON. Take a neck of mutton, cut it in pieces, reserving a good sized piece to serve in the tureen, put it into cold water enough to cover it, and cover the pot close; set it on coals until the water is lukewarm, then pour it off, and skim it well, then put it again to the meat with the addition of five pints of water, a teaspoonful of oil or pearl barley, and an onion cut up; set it on a slow fire, and when you have taken all the scum off, put in two or three quartered turnips. Let it simmer very slowly for two hours, then strain it through a sieve into the tureen, add pepper and salt to taste. [Ex.]

Animals fed well at this season of the year will winter much better than those fed poorly.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

### Report on Agricultural Implements.

The committee regret to have to say that the entries at this line were very few—to be attributed in part no doubt to the unpleasant state of the weather.

The first articles examined were a lot of 2 doz. scythes from the manufactory of R. B. Dunn, of North Wayne—a well proportioned and highly finished article, to which we award the society's premium.

The next was a lot of plows—consisting of three award plows, two seed plows, and one subsoil plow, manufactured by Garfield & Hilton, of Augusta, from Prouty & Mear's pattern; all of which were, in the opinion of your committee, very thorough made and of first rate materials and well worthy the first premium offered on those plows respectively.

We also examined a hoe here presented by J. H. Parsons, of Gardiner, upon which (although not exactly an agricultural implement) we venture to express an opinion. It has lately been introduced, as we were informed, into this section from New York, and although it has not been tested to any great extent here, we think from its construction that it promises to be of great service to the bee cultivator of this state, and have awarded the premium offered for the best constructed hoe.

J. POPE, per order.

### On Ploughing Matches.

The committee report that for the ploughing matches there were twelve entries for premiums, and that nine competitors presented themselves equipped for the work. There were five competitors for the premiums on work with double teams—two horse, three ox teams. For the premiums on single teams, there were four competitors, and one boy alone contended manfully for the prize for the best plowing by boys. A. Sampson and A. Lewis, of Hallowell, presented each a team of valuable, well disciplined horses. They did their work with ease and dispatch, and, excepting that Mr. Lewis' plowman ran his plow farther to land than it would turn well, their work was done in a neat and thorough manner. It is no more than justice to say the work of Mr. Sampson was better than that of any other in the field; but as the trustees in the offer of their premiums confined them to work with four oxen, we were very gladly relieved from the responsibility of deciding the perplexing question of comparative cheapness of doing farm work with horses and oxen. It may not be improper for us here to remark, that the plows used by Sampson and Lewis (the Berwick plows) are better fitted for deep and thorough plowing than any others that we have seen used in this or former ploughing matches; and we hope that the plow makers in this county will take "to heart" that a plow is needed, for much of our land that will go to a greater depth, carry a wider furrow, and lay it over more smoothly, than any of their manufacture that have fallen under our observation.

We were happy to witness the increased interest in this important department of our farm operations, as exhibited in the greater number of competitors and spectators, and especially in the generally better plows and plowing than on former occasions.

We have distributed the premiums at our disposal in the following manner, viz: for the best work with four oxen, 1st premium to J. W. Hassey, of Augusta, (Prouty & Mear's plow, No. 33); 2d premium to Levi Page, Jr., of Augusta, (Prouty & Mear's plow, No. 33). 1st premium on single team to B. Sawtelle, of Sidney, (maker of the plow not remembered); 2d premium to J. Fairbanks, of Winthrop, (maker of plow not remembered). And we very cheerfully recommend that the first premium offered to boys be given to George A. Page, of Augusta; although he had no competitor—his work having been done with Prouty & Mear's plow, without a driver, and without the hurry and bustle of boys of larger growth. Respectfully submitted.

FRANCIS FULLER, JONATHAN WHITING, ALVAN WADSWORTH.

### On Household Manufactures.

The committee would begin by saying that in the absence of those persons who were originally appointed, they were pressed into the service on the afternoon of the second day of the show, after a part of the articles had been removed from the room, and amidst a crowd of spectators it was impossible to do justice to those that remained.

The exhibition of household manufactures was not so large as would have been desirable, and not near as large as it probably would have been had the weather been more favorable.

The articles that were exhibited were for the most part very good, and we hope to see another year a much larger amount of household productions.

We first examined several specimens of woolen carpeting, all of which were very fair. We decided to give the first premium to No. 18, (Mrs. Stephen S. Robinson, of Mt. Vernon); the 2d to No. 22, (Miss Julia Ann White, of Vassalboro'); and the 3d to No. 74, (Mrs. Dudley Haines, of Redfield).

Of hearth rugs there was quite a variety, most of which were very good. We award the 1st premium to No. 23 (Miss Julia Ann White, of Vassalboro') the 2d premium; and to No. 50 (Mrs. Stephen Marston, of Mt. Vernon) the 3d premium.

There were about a half dozen bed spreads exhibited, and we were somewhat puzzled to decide betwixt them; but finally concluded to award the premiums as follows: to No. 128 (Miss Mary T. Erskine, of South China) the 1st premium; to No. 14 (Mrs. Amariah Kalluck, of Augusta) the 2d premium; and to No. 19 (Mrs. Elizabeth Craig, of Augusta) the 3d premium.

In the shawl department we found but two Highland shawls, and awarded the 1st premium to No. 100 (Mrs. Anna Manley, of Augusta); and to No. 99 (Miss Laura Manley, of Augusta) the 2d.

We also found four lots of worsted hose—the most part of which were very handsome specimens. On those we award the first premium to No. 55 (Mrs. Stephen Marston, of Mt. Vernon); the 2d to No. 52 (Mrs. Daniel Marston, of Mt. Vernon); the 3d to No. 51 (Mrs. D. Marston, of Mt. Vernon).

There were four pairs of linen hose No. 39 (Mrs. Hannah Blake, of Mt. Vernon), and a smaller lot, No. 84 (Mrs. Eliza Guild, of Augusta) presented, which we thought very good, and although we could find no authority for awarding a premium, we would take the liberty to recommend a gratuity on each.

J. POPE, per order.

### STONE WALL.

Mr. Editor—Like your notions on the subject of building stone wall found in the *Ploughman* for Sept. 5. I have had some experience in laying wall from boyhood, and have always built it much as you recommend, only perhaps, made it a little higher than you say. Have generally built about four feet high.

Many wall builders are very nice to make their wall handsome—will quiddle and trig to bring the smoothest and prettiest side of each stone outside. I have often seen the folly of this. Such wall will frequently look worse in a few years than hedge fence. I mean Piscataquis hedges—to wit, forest hedges of felled trees. I remember when a boy, a neighbor of my father's undertook to build a piece of wall, rather as a sample for others to follow. So he was quite nice and particular about it. It was laid at the bottom of a hill, consequently, the ground was some wet, spring and fall. The wall was built partly of split granite, and partly of smooth edged slate rock. When the wall was done it looked very pretty indeed; and the good man felt highly gratified at the notice taken of it by many who saw it. But lo, in less than five years the wall exhibited a doleful zigzag, dilapidated state. Jack Frost had given it such an uncouth shaking it was no more a pretty picture—it was not only much crooked out of a straight line, it was tottering to its fall; and the owner has since taken on the line to build quite different samples of wall.

Where stones are plenty and small, and it be the main object to get them out of the way; I have seen a method adopted which I like very well. Draw two straight lines with a plough, or any tool that will make a mark, four or five feet apart for the outer edges of the wall; there with your cart and oxen haul and upset a row of stones between these two lines, taking care to place stones on the outer sides so as to keep the edges perpendicular.

In this way the wall about 2-4 feet high, and it will answer all purposes of fence for neat cattle and horses—very few will ever attempt to scale it.

The greatest objection to this method, is, where land is high and valuable, such fence occupies rather too much space.

Respectfully, R. F. WILDER.

Piscataquis Co., Me., Oct. 28.

[Ploughman.]

### PRESERVATION OF CABBAGES.

A correspondent in the May number of the *Cultivator*, inquires respecting the best method of preserving cabbages through the winter. I have a plan which ten years' experience has shown to be a very good one; but whether it is the best, or even a novel one, to most of your readers, I do not pretend to decide.

I let my cabbage stand until late in the season, and (if I discover no symptoms of rot) until we have unmistakable signs of the appearance of winter. I choose the driest part of my garden or field, and with spade or hoe dig holes in rows, say two feet apart, just large enough to receive about two-thirds of a cabbage head. I select one of the largest and most solid heads, pull it up by the roots, wrap it up in the large coarse leaves, that grow to the stalk, and check it into one of the holes, with the stump inclining upwards, at an angle of forty-five degrees, or even placed vertically. Nothing now remains but to shovel on two or three inches of dirt, and press it down upon the head and around the stump, a few inches of which may be left above the ground, to mark the spot, and serve as a handle to pull the cabbage up by. Treated in this way, I have found them finer by far—fresher, tenderer, sweeter—than when gathered in the fall, and have never lost a sound head.

I have gone out in March, when there was three feet of snow on the spot, and with shovel and crow-bar, have exposed such cabbages as would have made your correspondent's mouth water, and long after the frost was out of the ground, I have found them equally good. This mode is attended with some more labor than that of bundling them into large holes or trenches, or hanging them up in the cellar, but to those who are fond of fresh cabbage in the spring—and I confess to an especial fondness for the same, having spent many years in the capacity of a tailor—the extra pains is labor well bestowed.

[Albany Cult.] N. H.

ASTHMA. There is no complaint more harassing than asthma. The *Newark Daily Advertiser*, a reliable paper, pledges himself to cure this distressing disease with the following simple remedy.

"Take one and one-half ounce of sulphur, one ounce cream tartar, one ounce senega, one half ounce anise seed—pulverize, and thoroughly mix the same, and take one teaspoonful in about two tablespoonfuls of molasses, on going to bed, or at such time through the day as may best suit the patient; the dose once a day may be increased or diminished a little, as may best suit the state of the bowels of the individual."

LARGE YIELD FROM ONE BEAR. Major Eaton, one of our villagers, informs us that from one bean, which was planted in his garden, the vine of which took two hundred and high upon a pole, he took two hundred and seven pods, which contained eleven hundred and three beans. Whose garden has yielded a larger increase from one bean than this? [Limerick (Maine) Repository.]

## THE LIGHTNING HORSE.

The best horse goes dashing by—  
The best second prize, he belted;  
While the railroad chimes onward fly,  
As swift, ay, swifter than the wind!  
But steam's too slow—it will not do;  
The car is not more speed; more power!  
Out rack the bolts for something new;  
A thousand miles, at least, an hour!  
And yet too slow—a flecter pace!  
Bring down great Heaven's thoroughfare!  
To annihilate both time and space,  
As thought and light pass through the air!  
'Tis done! he comes! the lightning horse!  
Lo! thought and time fall far behind!  
The prize is thine, immortal Morse,  
A triumph grand of mighty mind!  
Magnetic King, o'er locomotion,  
We hail thee, monarch of the age,  
With steam, scintillating land and ocean,  
In puffing, screaming loud with rage.

### RAISING ONIONS.

Messrs. Editors—The enquiries of your correspondent, L. E. R., as to the Danvers method of raising onions, may be briefly answered as follows:

The seed is distributed by the use of a drill machine, of ordinary structure, which is so generally known as not to need a particular description.

How deep does he mark for the seed?—About one inch, according to the preparation of the soil, and the judgment of the cultivator, just so as to fairly cover it over.

How thick is it sown?—The usual quantity sown upon an acre is three pounds. We have known double this quantity. The present year the seed was thick, succeeded best. When the season is dry, too many plants ruin the crop. As a general rule, we would say, one pound of seed to a quarter of an acre of land.

How far apart are the rows?—Fourteen inches is the usual distance. Our onion beds are adapted to this distance, and I find the practice almost universal.

Allow me to remark, that in the *Transactions* of the Essex Co. Ag. Society for the present year, now publishing, will appear an "Essay on the Cultivation of the Onion," embracing all the details on this subject, useful to be known. If your "distant correspondent" will favor me with his address, I shall be happy to forward him with a copy.

Very respectfully yours,

J. V. PROCTOR.

Danvers, Nov. 8, 1847. [Boston Cult.]

### BUTTER FROM ONE COW.

Mr. Editor—Dear Sir: In reading your paper I notice occasionally an article in relation to milk cows, and the quantity of butter made in a certain number of days. Thinking I could tell a good story as any near by me, I thought I would give you the particulars. You could give them a place in your valuable paper.

My father, S. Peckham, has kept one cow, and one two years old heifer this season, and one week in June, Mrs. Peckham set the milk separate and churned each by itself, and from the milk of the cow she made ten pounds of butter in seven days; and from the milk of the two years old heifer she made seven and a half pounds in seven days—they had no extra keeping at all and some new milk was used in the family in the time, but how much I cannot say, probably not much—the milk was not weighed.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES M. PECKHAM.

Lisbon, Ct., Nov. 4, 1847.

A cow that will make ten pounds of butter per week, on grass only, is worth four times as much as one that makes but five—the ordinary allowance for a cow for six months in succession. Probably the cows in Massachusetts will not yield so much on the average.

Yet we intend to improve our farm stock so much that ten pounds of butter will be the average quantity per week for a cow at grass. Can we do it?

Our correspondent may not approve of our arithmetic which comes to the result that one good cow is equal to four poor ones. And until farmers shall learn the correctness of this calculation we cannot expect they will make extra efforts to improve their stock.

The latter five pounds should be counted clear gain, so far as the keeping of the cow is concerned. [Ploughman.]

### ARTIFICIAL GUANO.

The following quantities will be sufficient for an acre of land: Ten cart-loads of rich mould; thirty gallons of stale urine, human; twenty bushels of pulverized charcoal, or one bushel plaster; eight bushels of ashes; five bushels of bone dust; and one bushel of common salt.

Mix the whole thoroughly together, and let it lay in a pile two weeks before being used, when it may be spread on the land and ploughed in, and will be found on trial a most efficient and prompt manure, answering equally well for grain crops as for grasses, and will ensure profitable yields throughout an entire course of rotation. Than the above mixture, a better top-dressing could not be provided for meadows. When applied to the latter it should be harrowed in and rolled. The best period for this latter operation, would be in early spring, so soon as the frost is completely out of the ground.

[American Farmer.]

AN AMERICAN COMPOUND ANAESTHETIC MICROSCOPE. Professor Henry has borne testimony to the extraordinary merits of the self-taught young American optician, referred to in the following article from the *Literary World*:

"Mr. Charles Spencer, of Canastota, N. Y., visited our city about a year ago, and had, through the kindness of a Professor in one of our Schools of Medicine, an opportunity of examining a Microscope made by Chevalier of Paris, under the orders of the celebrated Junon, of the Garden of Plants. Spencer had never seen one of these instruments before, but after a careful examination, he surprised the Professor, by remarking, 'I could make a better microscope than that.' The person to whom this boast was made, often during the next six months, amused his friend

with the Yankee presumption of the backwoods artist, who so confidently claimed superiority over the first optician of France. The test lasted but six months, however, for, at the end of that time, the Professor was invited to examine two lenses—one of high power, made by Mr. Spencer. To his unbounded astonishment, they proved to be of the highest order of excellence, and as a reward to native ingenuity, he ordered from Spencer a microscope, to be modeled after those of Chevalier, and of course, as much better as the native could make it. The instrument had just been completed and placed in the hands of the owner.

It has already been examined by Professor Bailey, of West Point, who has no superior as a microscopist in this country; by Professor Torrey, who had long been in the habit of using one of Chevalier's best instruments; by Professor Clark, Dr. Gilman, and others of our savans, who all unite in pronouncing it excellent. Prof. Bailey says it is "decidedly superior to Chevalier's," and adds, that he could do all with it that he could with the Lovell instrument at Boston.

Thus has one of our countrymen, self taught and almost without experience, (for Spencer has made but very few instruments, and not one in the model of this,) taken his place beside the oldest and most experienced opticians of Europe.

### GUTTA PERCHA.

This substance is a gum, destined ere long to come into more general use than India-rubber, and in many cases to supersede that useful substance. We have recently examined and used several articles made of this material, among which was some cloth, perfectly impervious to water, and yet soft and flexible, with an odor whiter, making it, in that respect, far preferable to India-rubber, while its strength was equal to the strongest canvas. Also a whip, the staff and thong of the same material, the former sufficiently stiff for that purpose, and the latter sufficiently flexible. It will outlast a dozen common whips, and the gum can be imported and the whip manufactured and sold for a shilling. Nor is this the only advantage in having such a whip. By plunging it into warm water it may at once be drawn out into a fishing-line, or moulded into a cane, a bottle or a book-cover, as occasion may require. The gum may be manufactured at pleasure into a variety of surgical instruments, and we doubt not that the time will soon come, when the country surgeon will carry with him in his ride a mass of the gutta. As a filling for teeth, it is said to equal gold in all its antiseptic properties, while its expense for that purpose would be merely nominal. For book-binding, it is pronounced superior to any article in use. For harnesses it will be found stronger and more durable than leather. For shoes there is no superior material, as it will be almost impossible for ice and sharp stones to lacerate them. Indeed, the uses to which it may be turned are innumerable. Pieces may be firmly united, simply by heating their edges, and pressing them together.

This substance is the product of a tree which grows in great abundance in some of the islands of the torrid zone, and will soon become an important article of commerce. It may be spun out into threads of remarkable fineness, and the cloth to which we referred above was composed of alternate threads of cotton and gutta, which, when woven, was hanted and pressed, which blended the two materials, and gave a perfectly waterproof surface. [Lewiston Journal.]

### IMPROVEMENT IN







**CLOTHING ESTABLISHMENT**  
For the first and ONLY HOUSE  
where all the latest and most  
fashionable styles of  
**Woolen & Cotton**  
**Prices for Gentlemen's Clothing,**  
ready made and universally celebrated Clozings  
of  
**W. C. OAK HALL!!**  
**GEORGE W. SIMMONS, Proprietor.**  
The excellence of the plan which he originally designed  
has been by him so improved and perfected as to be  
**APPRECIATED BY THE PUBLIC,** but to some extent  
the credit is due to the fact that he has been able to  
produce evidence of their appreciation of the plan by  
the fact that he has been able to secure a large  
subscription of Gentlemen's Clothing, at the Low  
and Moderate Display of Goods at **WIMMONS' OAK**  
embracing the Latest Importations from LON-  
DON and PARIS, are made of the best quality of  
performance and direction; and affords a Gen-  
tleman a rare opportunity to purchase at the  
LOWEST, in the purchase of a complete suit of Clothing  
and **WELL MADE**, a good opportunity  
to purchase the Largest and Best quality of  
**ELEGANT CLOTHING!**  
**AND DRESS GOODS!**  
of the United States, and which may be had by Cit-  
izens of New York, in addition to the great variety of  
**DRENN'S CLOTHING of Lower Rates** than  
any other establishment on the East  
Island, and at **PRICES LESS** than ever before  
offered at **SIMMONS' OAK**  
The following Trade look at this. Thousands of  
Gents, Pants, Vests and FURNISHING GOODS,  
of the best quality, and at the lowest prices, at  
No. 32 OAK HALL, Nos. 32, 34,  
36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000, 1002, 1004, 1006, 1008, 1010, 1012, 1014, 1016, 1018, 1020, 1022, 1024, 1026, 1028, 1030, 1032, 1034, 1036, 1038, 1040, 1042, 1044, 1046, 1048, 1050, 1052, 1054, 1056, 1058, 1060, 1062, 1064, 1066, 1068, 1070, 1072, 1074, 1076, 1078, 1080, 1082, 1084, 1086, 1088, 1090, 1092, 1094, 1096, 1098, 1100, 1102, 1104, 1106, 1108, 1110, 1112, 1114, 1116, 1118, 1120, 1122, 1124, 1126, 1128, 1130, 1132, 1134, 1136, 1138, 1140, 1142, 1144, 1146, 1148, 1150, 1152, 1154, 1156, 1158, 1160, 1162, 1164, 1166, 1168, 1170, 1172, 1174, 1176, 1178, 1180, 1182, 1184, 1186, 1188, 1190, 1192, 1194, 1196, 1198, 1200, 1202, 1204, 1206, 1208, 1210, 1212, 1214, 1216, 1218, 1220, 1222, 1224, 1226, 1228, 1230, 1232, 1234, 1236, 1238, 1240, 1242, 1244, 1246, 1248, 1250, 1252, 1254, 1256, 1258, 1260, 1262, 1264, 1266, 1268, 1270, 1272, 1274, 1276, 1278, 1280, 1282, 1284, 1286, 1288, 1290, 1292, 1294, 1296, 1298, 1300, 1302, 1304, 1306, 1308, 1310, 1312, 1314, 1316, 1318, 1320, 1322, 1324, 1326, 1328, 1330, 1332, 1334, 1336, 1338, 1340, 1342, 1344, 1346, 1348, 1350, 1352, 1354, 1356, 1358, 1360, 1362, 1364, 1366, 1368, 1370, 1372, 1374, 1376, 1378, 1380, 1382, 1384, 1386, 1388, 1390, 1392, 1394, 1396, 1398, 1400, 1402, 1404, 1406, 1



